

Historical Dictionary
of the
REPUBLIC OF
CAMEROON

second edition

Mark W. DeLancey
and
H. Mbella Mokeba

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African Historical Dictionaries, No. 48



The Scarecrow Press, Inc.
Metuchen, N.J., & London
1990

Maps on pages 2, 5, 7, 10 were prepared by the author and reprinted with permission of Westview Press.

DT
563
D45
1990
967.11003
D379
1890

7A5

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British Library Cataloguing-in-Publication data available.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

DeLancey, Mark.

Historical dictionary of the republic of Cameroon / by Mark W. DeLancey and H. Mbella Mokeba. -- 2nd ed.

p. cm. - (African historical dictionaries : no. 48)

ISBN 0-8108-2370-5 (alk. paper)

1. Cameroon--History--Dictionaries. I. Mokeba, H. Mbella.

II. Title. III. Series.

DT563.D45 1990

967.11'003--dc20

90-48044

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Manufactured in the United States of America

Printed on acid-free paper.

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and various signals to inform government troops of insurgent activity. The ZOPAC operation began in 1957 and was commanded by a French colonel, Jean Lambert. By 1958, the strategy forced hundreds of UPC guerrilla fighters to take refuge in the forests and begin the Maquis (q.v.) insurgency. The ZOPAC strategy was operated in the Edèa area of the Sanaga-Maritime Division and later in the Bamiléké (q.v.) countryside.

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INTRODUCTION

A variety of materials on Cameroon has been published in recent years. The annual Africa Bibliography published by the International African Institute under the direction of Hector Blackhurst is an excellent reference for up-to-date listing of articles and the African Book Publishing Record is the best source for items published in Cameroon. Older materials are well covered in the

standard M. and V. DeLancey, A Bibliography of Cameroon. For German-language publications see M.F. Dippold, Une bibliographie du Cameroun. Annotated references to recent works are found in M. DeLancey and P. Schraeder, Cameroon.

Regular coverage of events in Cameroon is difficult to find, but the magazines West Africa and Jeune Afrique are helpful. Annual surveys of political and economic events are available in Colin Legum, Africa Contemporary Record (New York: Africana, annual) and Africa South of the Sahara (London: Europa, annual).

The classic work on Cameroon history is E. Mveng, Histoire du Cameroun. Important general works on the precolonial era are rare, but Adamawa is well covered in M. Njeuma, Fulani Hegemony in Yola; S. Abubakar, The Lamibe of Fombina; and A. Kirk-Greene, Adamawa, Past and Present. The numerous works of Eldridge Mohammodou based on intensive study of oral history are significant for earlier periods. German rule is analyzed in K. Hausen, Deutsche kolonial herrschaft in Afrika, and the various volumes by H. Stoecker. The classic work in English is H. Rudin, Germans in the Cameroons. Also refer to L.H. Gann and P. Duignan, The Rulers of German Africa.

Official versions of French rule include P. Chaleur, L'oeuvre de la France au Cameroun and V. Chazelas, Territoires africains sous mandat de la France. W.B. Cohen, Rulers of Empire and R. Delavignette, Freedom and Authority in French West Africa present analysis of and a theory for French administration. More critical of that administration is the brilliant work by Richard Joseph, Radical Nationalism in Cameroun, and J.A. Mbembe, Ruben Um Nyobe, which analyze the UPC. British rule is less thoroughly studied, though Gardinier's essay, "The British in the Cameroons," P.M. Kale's Political Evolution in the Cameroons, and A. Marc, La politique economique ... are important contributions. Kale's book is difficult to obtain.

The annual reports to the League of Nations and to the UN produced by the French and the British are important, although biased, sources on this period.

Victor LeVine, The Cameroons from Mandate to Independence, is an excellent overall view of the political history of the period from 1916 to 1961. Analysis of more recent political events is found in the various works of J.-F. Bayart, most of which are in French. In English, see the new volume by M. DeLancey, Cameroon, Dependence and Independence, and his essay in Journal of Contemporary African Studies, and the numerous publications of V. LeVine. Collections of the speeches and thoughts of Presidents Biya and Ahidjo are available; the reports of CNU and CPDM congresses are useful sources on official policy. Mongo Beti, Main basse sur le Cameroun, is a stinging attack on the Ahidjo administration. Also see the UPC

view in N. Woungly-Massaga, *Où va le Kamerun?* J. Benjamin, *Les camerounais occidentaux*, analyses the position of West Cameroon in the Federal Republic.

Peter Geschiere, *Village Communities and the State*, presents a rare--and thorough--analysis of local government-central government relationships.

Other valuable studies of the political system include the publications of N. Rubin, W. Johnson, N. Kofele-Kale, and Victor Kamga. Foreign relations are analyzed in essays by M. DeLancey, N. Kofele-Kale and the important books H.W. Beuth, *Bestimmungsfaktoren der Aussenpolitik Kamerun*, and A.N. Njoya, *Le Cameroun dans les relations internationales*.

For an introduction to the geography of Cameroon, J.A. Ngwa, *A New Geography of Cameroon*, and G. Laclavère, ed., *Atlas of the United Republic of Cameroon*, are quite adequate. Much more detail is available in the two volumes of P. Billard, *Le Cameroun fédéral*. Unfortunately, this is somewhat dated. The most current material appears in the journal *Revue de Géographie du Cameroun*, published in Yaoundé. This, like most items published in Cameroon, is difficult to find in American universities.

There is no up-to-date survey of the Cameroon economy. Chapters in recent general books on Cameroon, as in M. DeLancey's 1989 publication, provide some general coverage, but in-depth analysis of the economy is available only in articles concerned with specific aspects of the economic system. Agriculture has received more attention than any other sector. See especially the essays by V. DeLancey.

Although comprehensive studies of the arts in Cameroon are uncommon, there are several significant publications on selected aspects of the arts. The recent volume by C. Seignobos, *Nord Cameroun: montagnes et hautes terres*, and the older J.P. Beguin, *L'habitat au Cameroun*, analyze architecture. Also see the special edition of *Paideuma* (v. 31) devoted to grassfields palaces. J. Etienne-Nugue and H. Peccinotti, *Crafts and the Arts of Living in Cameroon*; V. and A. Lamb, *Au Cameroun: Weaving*; and E. Mveng, *L'art et l'artisanat africains*, provide analysis and excellent photographs of arts and crafts. Francis Bebey, *African Music*, is continental in scope, but the author is a Cameroonian and he relies heavily on Cameroon examples. Robert Brain, *Art and Society in Africa*, is likewise continental, but heavily reliant on the author's Cameroon experience. On Cameroon music, see also Eno Belinga, *Ballades et chansons africaines*.

The best reference to African literature is H. Zell et al., *A New Reader's Guide to African Literature*, but also see the bibliographic essay on Cameroon by Richard Bjornson. The novels by

Bebey, Beti, Nanga and Oyono are the most famous of Cameroon fiction. For a listing of older studies of folklore, refer to V. and M. DeLancey, *A Bibliography of Cameroun Folklore*.

Cameroon contains numerous and quite varied ethnic groups. No single source can provide description or analysis of these many societies. Many groups have not appeared in published works and those that have been frequently reported upon are not necessarily the largest or most significant politically, economically, or in other respects. In the available literature there are several excellent studies by both Cameroonian and foreign scholars. These are organized by geographic region in the bibliography, but this does not signify that the groups described in any section are necessarily similar or "related" to each other. Two of these publications, although rather old, provide a summary of large amounts of material on many ethnic groups: E. Ardener, *Coastal Bantu of the Cameroons*, and M. McCulloch et al., *Peoples of the Central Cameroons*. Another older work of outstanding value is *Women of the Grassfields* by P. Kaberry, which analyzes the position of women in the Bamenda region. Sultan Njoya, *Histoire et coutumes des Bamum*, is one of the earliest studies of Cameroon society written by a Cameroonian. Other more recent works in English include the several items by Paul Nkwi (e.g., *Traditional Government and Social Change*, but also see his works listed under "Historic"), and M.T. Aletum, *Political Conflicts within the Traditional and Modern Institutions of the Bafut*. Other anglophone scholars include B. Chem-Langhee, P.N. Mzeka and Bejing Soh. The publications of Ejedepong-Koge on the Bakossi are useful but difficult to find. Francophone Cameroonian anthropologists include E.K. Kwayeb and Manga Bekombo. Also see the publications of Eldridge Mohammadou under "Historic."

Studies of religion in Cameroon relate mainly to Christianity. Much of this is biographical or autobiographical, written by foreign missionaries. The several publications of J.K. Mackenzie provide much information on the peoples of southeastern Cameroon at about 1900. Ngongo's *Histoire des forces religieuses au Cameroun* presents detailed analysis of the Christian missions and churches. Brief studies of particular missions include P. Nkwi, *The Catholic Church in Kom*, L. Kwast, *The Discipling of West Cameroon: A Study of Baptist Growth*, and Nyansako-ni-Nku, ed., *Journey in Faith*.

Analysis of Cameroon religions is found in many of the anthropological works, but for an overall view and philosophical analysis, refer to J.C. Bahoken, *Clairières métaphysique Africaines*. Studies limited to particular ethnic groups include P. Laburthe-Toba, *Initiations et sociétés secrètes au Cameroun*, P.A. Noss, *Grafting Old Rootstock*, and H. Balz, *Where the Faith Has to Live*. Nwel P. Titi, *Thong Likeng*, examines the Nyambe-Bantu religion, an example of a Cameroonian syncretic movement, and its founder.